

I fully support petition RM-10786 submitted by No Code International (NCI) requesting that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) act immediately to eliminate Morse Code testing Element 1 from the Amateur Radio license structure. Also asked for in the petition is to automatically upgrade current Technician class operators to include those privileges of the “Technician Plus” license.

As a member of No Code International and an Amateur Radio Operator, I believe that a proficiency in Morse Code is not a true indicator of a good radio operator and is only serves as a barrier for talented new operators.

Morse Code is no longer the mode of choice, even though still a very practical means of communication, for efficient emergency communications. Due to the recent advances in both radio and computers, modern digital modes such as PSK 31 are able to deliver “perfect copy” at much higher data rates and under poor signal to noise conditions. Under these conditions, even the most skilled Morse operators might not even be able to detect, let alone decode it—when such information transfer is essential in emergency situations.

Morse Code used to be the only means of communication by radio, now it is only one of the many dozens of voice, data, and video modes. Morse Code should not be afforded any special treatment when qualifying potential radio operators, which is not in the best interests of the advancement of the radio art. I do not wish to see Morse Code die, but it is only one mode of operation. Perhaps not having a Morse requirement will encourage more interest in it!